

Best Practice: Wrapping Drain Pipes in Barbed Wire



Category: Perimeter Control

Location First Observed: Port of Bombay, Mumbai India

Date First Observed: May, 2005

Description:

Vertical drain pipes running down buildings inside the facility were wrapped in barbed wire along their entire length to prevent persons from climbing them and accessing the building's roof or upper floor windows

Discussion:

Very simple and inexpensive security enhancement. Pipes were wrapped both horizontally and vertically to make the wire difficult to remove. Only necessary on drain pipes made of iron or steel that are strong enough to be climbed. Unnecessary for lightweight aluminum drain pipes that are not strong enough to hold a person's weight. Other similar pipes, conduit, heavy wires can also be wrapped in a similar manner.

Potential Down-side:

With specialized protective equipment and practice, a determined person might find it easier to climb a drain pipe wrapped in barbed wire than one that is not wrapped, as the barbed wire provides far better friction for boots and gloves than a smooth pipe.

Conclusion:

For certain applications, this technique offers an effective means for keeping casual persons from climbing drain pipes and accessing unauthorized areas.

Cost:

Materials; \$10 USD per 10 foot pipe. Installation; 2 man hours per 10 foot pipe.